

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, January 5. 1712.

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I have in my last, spoken something of the present unnatural Conjunction of two Violent Extremes, and which will, I doubt not, be the Wonder and Contempt of Posterity, I mean the New Union of our *new Whigs* with the *Older Tories*: Were our Fathers to rise from the Dead; were my Lord *Russel*, the Earl of *Essex*, *Algernon Sidney*; Ald. *Cornish*, and the rest of the Patriots of Liberty, on whose Blood the Revolution was built as a Foundation; were these to rise from the Dead, and see their Posterity, for a mere Party Interest, fly over to the most Inveterate Party, that dip'd their Hands in the Innocent

Blood of those Days; were they to see the Zealous Patrons of Revolution Principles shake Hands with the Mortal Enemies of the Nation's Liberty, and drink in the highest rectify'd Spirits of Jacobite Extravagion, how would they stand amaz'd, and ask 'em, if it was for this they spant their Blood? And if this be to be a Whig, or to be a Renegade to profest'd Principles?

And now let us Examin a little, what can be *the View*? What *the Design*? And in order to that, let us ask, *What is the Pretence*? As to the View and Design, no Man need conceal it — Depositing the Ministry is the Word, this is the profest'd

*View*.

View, and both Parties are far enough from Concealing it — So that is not to be a Mystery here.

But what is the Reason then of this Design? *For every Design has a Reason*, either true or pretended, to make it seem just.

*The Other Men's Reason is clear*, because the Ministry acting upon Principles less Violent than they expected, have not let them loose upon the *Whigs* and the *Dissenters*; have not fallen upon Persecutions, Impeachments, and every Thing that is Furious and Destroying, as they expected, agreeable to the Temper they began in; and to bring this to pass, *Ridiculous Madness!* they go and join with the *Whigs*.

The *Whigs* *Resentment* is, the late *Change*, their Friends dismiss'd, and a *Peace* in *View*; by which that *Change* is in *Danger* of being render'd *Immortal*, and they or their Interest foreclos'd; and to retrieve this, *improbable Project!* they go and join with the *Jacobites*, and *Sacrifice* the *Dissenters*. I believe I state this *Impartially*, without *Respect* to either *Side*; I am sure I design it so.

But having stated the true Party-Views on either *Side*, let us Examin a little the *Presence*; and in this, however remote their *Ends* are, they agree, and found their *New Confederacy* upon it, *viz.* That the Ministry are going to give us all up to *France*, to abandon the *Allies*, to break the *Confederacy*; that they have made a *Separate Treaty* with *France*, *Consented* to receive *Ridiculous Preliminaries*, and pretend to drive the *Confederates* to *Treat* upon them, as the *Ground* of the *Peace*; That they have *menac'd* the *Dutch* into it; That they have agreed to give *Spain* and the *Indies* to the *King of France*, or his *Grandson Philip*, which is all one; and that, in short, the present Ministry, to Establish themselves, have *sold* us to *France*; these are not my *Words*, but *their own*; I dare say, both Parties will acknowledge them, and they repeat them every Day.

If this were true, Curst would be he, and all the People would say *Amen* to it; be-

lieving it to be so, who would open his Mouth, or write one Letter with his Pen in behalf of it; and as to me, I would not endeavour to save my own Son from the Gallows, if he were *Guilty* of it.

But if on Examination it should appear, or by the Effects, that not a Word of this is true — Let all Men run Hand over Head to damn and condemn for it, those, who have not a Step towards it, I must not, I cannot do it; and if I must bear all the Fury of the Town, because I will not yet believe it, I profess I cannot help it; when it does appear, and I do see it, I will detect both the Practice and the Persons, let them be who they will.

This *Clamour of a Separate Treaty with France*, is *Calculated* to answer abundance of *Ends* among the common People; and when I have put it close to some People, they answer me *Honestly*, no matter whether it be true or no; 'tis like the *second Declaration of the Prince of Orange*, which answer'd the *End*; and did his *Business*, tho' his *Highness* afterwards when he came in, and was King, declar'd he never knew who did it.

And how did it Answer? — It serv'd to make the People uneasy, it alarm'd the Army, and made them desert the Service of King *James*, who they believ'd was just going to employ them to cut all our Throats in Cold Blood, and to let in the *French* and *Irish* upon them, and it was *effetual* indeed; I canot but think the *Parallel* is very justly drawn, tho' the *Occasion* does not appear to me to be the same.

But if, I say, after all this, the Queen, the Ministry, the Managers Abroad or at Home, should really not have done so; if there is really no *secret Engagements* to *France*, no *private Terms* made, no *separate Treaty* — What then? What are we *Guilty* of? It is not for me to say there is, or there is not; I am let into none of these *Secrets*, nor do I desire it; but I must own my *Satisfaction* from these *Things*; *if*. I do not, I confess I do not see the *Probability* of it; *adly*, The Queen has declared positively, there are no *separate Engagements*

gagements of any kind enter'd into, either by her Majesty, or any body by her Direction or Appointment ; I know I Al-  
soeant some People, when I go about to per-  
suade them to lay any weight upon this, and therefore I must referr them to the Ev-  
ents ; when, if it should appear, that what  
her Majesty affirms, is really so, they ought  
I am sure to blush ; whether they will or  
no, Time must discover.

For the present, the whole Matter turns  
upon this single Point, whether there is  
any *Separate Treaty*, made with *France* by  
the *British Court*, or no ; And whether we  
have agreed to give up *Spain* and the *Indies*  
to the *House of Bourbonne*, *Yea*, or no.

If not, then some have been to blame, and will have Reason to Repent being the  
Cause of all the Extremities which our  
Heats drive Things to ; and I wish the ho-  
nest People, who have been prevail'd up-  
on to push Things on to the Extremities  
that we every Day see them issue in, would  
Refle& ; whether they are not the Cause

of many Steps being taken, which would  
otherwise have been let alone.

I never found, that driving *Whigs* to  
Extremities in *England*, had any issue, but  
the Ruin and Confusion of those that wrote  
the Authors of it ; and where *Moderate*  
Councils might have taken Place, If it is  
otherwise, as now I fear ; too much of it  
will be owing to those, who would spare  
nothing of their Heat, to prevent or delay  
it — And some People may have Time  
to Repent both their own Heat one Way,  
and their betraying their Friends another Way,  
while the *Dissenters* must now be  
content, to expect how mercifully the Na-  
tions will use them, to whom the *Whigs*  
have deliver'd them up for Nothing, and  
if I may say so, for less than Nothing, and  
Vanity ; and while the *Whigs* in *England*  
must acknowledge, that if they are ruin'd,  
it is by their own Hands.

Unhappy Nation ! When shall our Eyes  
be open to our own Safety and Peace ?

## Advertisement for the OBSERVATOR.

I Had taken no more Notice of what the  
Author of the *Observator* had said, as  
what, by Way of Dispute, I think merits  
no Reply, if he had not now taken a New  
Course with me ; a Course, which all ho-  
nest and unbiass'd Men must abhor, at  
least, if they have any Sense, either of Con-  
science or Justice in the World — And a  
Course, which favours rather of a *Murtherer*  
than of a *Disputant* ; and in this, the  
Necessity will excuse me.

I thought we might have differ'd in Ar-  
gument without Personal Malice ; I bless  
God I Entertain none against the worst En-  
emy I have ; I have not offer'd to say  
one Word to him or of him, but what re-  
lates to him as an Author, and to what he  
has Prized in the World ; but he, on the  
contrary, unlike a *Christian*, as well as a  
Gentleman, has Transferr'd his Rage from  
the *Observator* and *Review*, to Ridpath and

*De Foe*, and for want of better Arguments,  
Reproaches me with the Misfortunes of pri-  
vate Circumstances ; Trilogy altogether  
Foreign to the Matter in Hand, of 22 Years  
standing, and which he can, on no Hono-  
rable Pretence, mention, but merely revo-  
cere Dolorem, to Insult his Neighbour.

While, to make good the Deficiency of  
his Reasoning, he frequently call'd me  
*Bankrupt*, I held my Tongue, supposing he  
took that for a good Proof, that I was wrong  
in all I said ; for how should a *Bankrupt* have  
any Sense ? Or, how should he Argue, that  
could not pay his Debts ? — But finding  
this would not move me, he comes closer  
to me, and publishes in *Observator* N<sup>o</sup>. ....  
That no-body will trust me with a Shilling —  
This indeed, tho' it were true, as I bank  
God it is a Premeditated Untruth, weighs  
not one Grains in the Scale of his Argument,  
yet

yet forces me to speak a Word or two more than I design'd.—

If I had not at this Time, in the Lawful pursuit of my Business (by which, and *not* by Writing, as he does, I get my Bread,) support a large Family, and honestly set apart the Overplus, to clear the Encumbrances he Reproaches me with, all which this Malicious Person has thus endeavour'd to blasphe and overthrow; I P, I say, I had not in the Course of this Business, even as *this Time*, the TRUST of several Thousand Pounds in my Hands, of other Men's Goods and Effects; IF I had not, since the Misfortune he Reproaches me with, been TRUSTED both with Publick and Private Money, to above the Value of one Hundred Thousand Pounds; and IF I was not every Day even opprest'd with the TRUSTS of both Goods and Money, by Friends, whom I love, much more than I desire— All which Business and TRUSTS, he has thus done his Utmost to Ruin and prevent, I should have said nothing; but as this is my Case, Justice to my Self, my Family, and such an undoubtfull Injury me, as above, obliges me to take Notice of it in the following manner.

1. I offer to refer him to several Persons of his own Knowledge and Acquaintance, who having Trasted me in Business, 500*l.*, and 1000*l.* at a Time, will give the Lye to what he has Publish'd, and will own those Trusts Faithfully and Honourably Discharg'd; I think this will detect him of Malice and Falshood.

2. Had what he says been true; *He*, a profess'd *Dissector*, ought not to have mention'd it, since thereby he only calls to Mind how I suffer'd by 500*l.* Loss, for a Cause that he owns, and a Party which he ought to have more Respect for, than to force me to upbraid them with Unkindness, and to tell how easily I could have prevented that Loss, with Advantage, if I would have betray'd honest Men, even some, who have since forgot that Obligation, less than which Loss, would have made him a Bankrupt, I doubt, both in Cash, and in Principle.

3. That as he shew's himself a Man of a Wicked and Malicious Principle, who without any just Provocation, can thus Attempt to Ruin and Overthrow a Man and his Family, who struggles with a known and unweary'd Diligence, to recover his Misfortunes, and do Justice to all the World; so I Chearfully depend upon it, that God will not suffer so Malicious a purpose to have its desir'd Effect; and therefore I publish to all those I am Dealing with, as follows;

That all those People who have now Credited me, and whose Effects I have in my Hands, and who may be Influen'd by this Villanous Attempt upon me to be unuseful, on a Post Letter to me they shall have immediately restor'd and deliver'd to them, or their Affigues, all their Goods, Money and Effects, to a Farthing.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

BROOK and HELLIER give Notice, that there is a convenient Place newly fitted up, adjoining to their Old House, in *Stamford-Post*, *Coxhill*; for the

Reception and Accommodation of Gentle-men, as well in respect of Eating as Drilling, where their Wines are Sold at the same Prices within Doors as without.

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